Hello and welcome to Mollie’s Marvelous Melbourne Walking Tour. Melbourne is a place I like to call home and I am looking forward to guiding you to some of my favourite places in Melbourne today. This tour will start at Parliament Station and end at Flinders Street Station. It should take you about an hour to complete, but you might like to extend your tour by stopping to enjoy a cup of coffee or a sweet along the way.

After I’ve spoken about each location I will give you directions on how to get to the next site and I will also instruct you to pause your iPod while you make your own way there. A map has been included for your convenience. I hope you have a great day!

Bing.

Site 1. Starting at Parliament Station, walk half a block down Lonsdale Street until you get to number **50 Lonsdale Street**. Also known as ‘Urban Workshop’, this building houses some of Melbourne’s most important public services, including the Department of Health, Human Services and Sustainability Victoria. This 34 story, modern building is an example of some of Melbourne’s best sustainable design, boasting a 5 star Green Star rating. The site uses recycled water, timed lighting mechanisms and recycled materials to keep their energy use down.

An old cottage sits in front of the foyer of the building, reminding visitors of a time gone by. Indeed, 50 Lonsdale Street is the very location of *Little Lon*, a unique and vibrant community that lived here during the 19th and 20th Century. Originally a residential precinct that emerged during the late 1840s, Little Lon became a working class district for Irish immigrants. By the 1900’s this community had been replaced by Chinese, German, Lebanese and Italian immigrants. Over this time, the area also emerged as a centre for furniture and clothing manufacturing, prostitution, warehouses, and small shops. Little Lon was tagged 'the Street of Evil' by the Truth newspaper in the 1930s. It is also thought to be the location of the infamous, Madame Brussels Brothel.

While *Little Lon* was unambiguously a poor neighbourhood, recent archaeological digs have found that living standards were, in some case, flourishing and enduring. Some houses were likely to have been filled with personal possessions such as domestic ornaments, china bowls, glasses, and tools of trade. Some of these artifacts are on display in the foyer of 50 Lonsdale Street. Go inside and have a look!

Bing

The next site is the Melbourne Coffee Palace on Bourke Street. To get there, head back up Lonsdale Street to Spring Street and turn right. Make your way to Bourke Street and turn right again, walking towards Exhibition Street. The Coffee Palace is on the corner. If you feel like a coffee on the way, stop in at one of Melbourne’s cultural institutions, Pelligrinis. Café.

Please pause the track now and press play once you get to 89 Bourke Street (the site of the Melbourne Coffee Palace, site number 2).

